**Kingswood HighSchool Community Garden Project**

*A School to Work Funded Project - Supported by: WSI TAFE, Money Orchard- Penrith, Stratco - Huntingwood*

The program is one of the key strategic priorities to be implemented within the broader school strategic direction of “Building Student and Community Engagement”. The practices we aim to achieve are effective communication, positive promotion of our school and participation and partnerships with parents, carers, local business and community. The program provides a project based, inclusive and differentiated curriculum opportunity for students and will assist in the development of partnership between home and school. It also provides the school with a product toward the achievement of the implementation of more positive programs based on student need. The promotion of the project using school media channels will assist us to improve the profile of KHS and promote our ethos so students are valued and value our learning community.

**Why a “Community Garden Project?”**

School planning identified the need for a different type of learning program for students who were disengaged from the curriculum at KHS, but they did not really need another wellbeing program.

The Community Garden Project has developed over 2015/2016 in collaboration with WSI TAFE Richmond who provides teaching staff. The learning program offers participating students the opportunity to gain industry level accreditation through the completion of a Production Horticulture accreditation.

**Project Focus**

The underpinning focus of the program is to enable students to experience the connection between content knowledge and skills learnt in the classroom and their application in a wider community setting and the importance of these competencies for their future pathways and lifelong learning.

**Project Structure**

The project is designed to help re-engage selected students who are having difficulty accessing the curriculum by providing smaller group tuition within a project based learning application of understanding, skills and knowledge.

The outcome of the program is to have students develop a community garden, where the produce will be sold at the local market in Penrith, in order to help the project become self-sustaining in the future. The school’s hospitality students also use the produce.

Students participate in the alternate study pattern on Wednesday of each week to participate in the project. The project runs during normal school hours. A WSI TAFE teacher is with the students at all times and they will also have access to school staff. The TAFE teacher has the same behavioural expectations as KHS staff.

Student’s are fitted out with work boots, a hat and shirt supplied by the TAFE as part of their commitment to the project but are be required to supply sunscreen and any other clothing designated by the teacher.

**Building a sense of community**

Students from mainstream and the special education support unit work together in the program

**Staff Feedback**

“Good to see them working”

“Some may get a job from this”.

“Why don’t they work like that in my classroom.”

“Can they come and do my garden at home?”

“They are doing a great job”.

**Resourcing**

*Teacher relief* – ($420 per day) n/a as TAFE supply teacher through collaboration

*School to work funded set up resources* – ($4,000)

Tools-shovels, picks, rakes, wheel barrows etc.

Materials – Framing for garden beds and shed, cladding for shed, shade cloth, water tanks, piping and plumbing.

Consumables – soil, plants, town water costs, fertiliser.

*School Coordinator* – Career Advisor/Deputy Principal (part of duties)

**School to Work Key Action Areas**

***Planning Transition Pathways*** – program targeted for senior students and students from Years 9 and 10. Their ability to achieve school based outcomes is assessed and if necessary, an individual education plan is developed to assist them in the achievement of Cert 2 in Horticulture with the opportunity for continued student through TAFE.

***Exploring Career Futures*** – Program is designed to give students an insight into the Horticulture industry. The program is practically based, designed to help students who struggle to engage in mainstream curriculum. The intended outcomes are for students to reengage in their learning at school or look at an alternate pathway through the TAFE system.

***Building Networks*** – Bringing industry participants to school to speak with the to help with the development of a network for students to draw on and a possible future career choice.